



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

## LEWISIA COLUMBIANA VAR WALLOWENSIS **COLUMBIA LEWISIA**

Columbia Lewisia is a perennial with 1-several flowering stems that are 5-25 cm tall, and arise from a swollen, fleshy, usually unbranched rootstock. The basal, succulent, linear to spatulate leaves are 2-4 cm long and 3-8 mm wide. There are several small, alternately arranged bracts borne on the stems and inflorescence branches; the lowest have entire margins, while the middle and upper have glandular teeth on their margins. The inflorescence is branched and many flowered. The flowers have two sepals that are glandular-toothed like the upper bracts, 7-9 pink petals that are 5-8 mm long, 5-6 stamens, and a single pistil with 3-8 stigmas. Fruits are about twice as long as the calyx and have a top that comes off like a lid; each fruit contains about 3 shiny, reddish-brown, almost black seeds that are 1.5-2 mm wide. Flowering in June-July.

Distinguished from other Montana LEWISIA by having several flowers per stem. Distinguished from species of CLAYTONIA by having capsules that open like a lid top, and alternate stem bracts rather than opposite stem leaves.